



SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

Office of the Dean
School of Education
707-664-2132, 707-664-2483 fax

22 December 2008

**To: All School Districts Hosting Student Teachers from
Sonoma State University**
**From: Mary Gendernalik-Cooper, Dean, School of Education, Sonoma State
University**
Re: Additional Information Regarding the PACT Requirements

I hope this finds you ready for a well deserved break. When we return after New Year's we will be completing our final preparations for full implementation of the state requirement that all student teachers in Multiple Subject and Single Subject Credential programs complete the Teacher Performance Assessment, pursuant to SB 2042 and SB 1209. Sonoma State University has adopted the Performance Assessment of California Teachers Program (PACT), a performance assessment model approved by CCTC, to address this requirement. Under PACT credential candidates submit a Teaching Event portfolio as part of their student teaching experience. The student teachers are all trained on the necessities of the teaching event portfolio and the related requirements. As part of this portfolio the student teacher must discuss their teaching experience and describe their understanding and knowledge of how individual students are learning and how to approach them. In addition, there is a required video clip of the student teacher providing direct instruction to students. In light of these components Sonoma State would like to advise school districts, schools, and their professional staff of the following:

1. The student teachers have been trained and understand that in their written descriptions of the student learning process they may not use information that would individually identify any student. The confidentiality rights of students are understood and will be fully honored.
2. Video Clip. As part of this portion of the teaching event, students will undoubtedly appear in the videotape of the demonstrated lesson. Therefore it will be important that parents have given their permission for their students to participate and be viewed in the video clip. Many districts already have in place a release from parents for children to participate in photo events by way of a general release that parents sign at the beginning of the school year. In the event that your district does not have that process in place or it is unclear about its application to this situation we have attached a release that can be distributed to children so that they can take it home and have their parents review and authorize their being viewed in the video clip. The releases will be maintained in the students' cumulative files. The student teacher in coordination with their master/mentor teacher will be responsible for ensuring that the only children that are seen in the video clip are those children for whom an authorization has been received.
3. Another aspect of the video clip is the actual taping of the demonstrated lesson. Student teachers will work with their master/mentor teachers to determine the best practice for doing this. Student teachers will have access to appropriate equipment through Sonoma State and the actual videotaping can either be done by way of a tripod or a volunteer camera person which might include the

master/mentor teacher. Again, the process for this will be done in a coordinated effort between the student teacher and the master/mentor teacher.

Should you have any questions concerning the teaching event requirement of the California Department of Education and the Commission on Teacher Credentialing, I encourage you to call CDE at 916-319-0800 or CCTC at 916-445-7254.

Copies of the Video Permission form, in English and Spanish are enclosed; as is an invitation to an Overview and Discussion of PACT implementation that is scheduled for later in January. I hope as many mentor/resident teachers and administrators as possible will attend.

We thank you in advance for your wonderful cooperation in providing our student teachers with this important opportunity to learn and develop their skills as teachers.